

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 to page 11, as follows:

FIG. 5A is a perspective view of a sleep apnea apparatus according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention, showing alternate fasteners and multi-linked segment formation.

FIG. 5B is a perspective view of a sleep apnea apparatus according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention, showing the interior surface of the support member and alternate fasteners.

FIG. 5C is a perspective view of a sleep apnea apparatus according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention, showing alternate fasteners.

Please amend paragraph 2, page 12, as follows:

Preferably, distal ends 32a and 32b of first and second straps 30a and 30b, respectively, have strap fastenersing means 34a and 34b, respectively, engaged therewith, wherein strap fastenersing means 34a and 34b are preferably hook and loop material fastener. Preferably, second end 24 of support member 20 has cooperative fastenering means 36 provided thereon, wherein strap fastenersing

~~means~~ 34a and 34b securely, adjustably and removably engages therewith. Preferably, strap fasteners 34a and 34b and cooperative fastenering means 36 ~~are~~^{is} hook and loop material fastener, however, one skilled in the art would readily recognize that other types of cooperative fastening ~~systems~~^{means} could be utilized such as, for exemplary purposes only, buckles 100a, 100b, snaps 102a, 102b, magnets 104a, 104b, clasps 106a, 106b or loops, as seen in FIGS. 5A, 5B, and 5C, or any other suitable fastening system.

Please amend paragraph 2, page 14, as follows:

In the preferred embodiment, data collection valve 50 is provided, wherein a data collection vessel (not shown) or device 110 (depicted in FIG. 4), may be connected thereto for analytical analysis of the performance of device 10. Preferably, data collection valve 50 enables connection to a test tube (not shown), wherein measurement and recording of water pressure can be correlated to effective performance of device 10.

Please amend paragraph 2, page 15, as follows:

In an alternate embodiment, support member 20 could be formed from multiple linked sections, as depicted in FIG. 5A, wherein a substantially airtight and flexible seal could be provided at the linkage thereof.

Please amend paragraph 2, page 16, as follows:

In an alternate embodiment, as shown in **FIG. 4**, an external negative pressure device~~means~~ such as, for exemplary purposes only, a vacuum or air pump, could be connected to valve 50 or valve 44 of sleep apnea device 10 to control and/or assist in the creation and/or maintenance of negative pressure.